

V. REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-5 are rejected under 35 USC 102 (e) as being anticipated by Muir et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0192090). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Muir teaches a gaming machine display which includes a game playing arrangement mountable in a cabinet of a gaming machine and an electronically controlled display element overlying the game playing arrangement. Depending on a state of the display element, the game playing arrangement is visible through the display element. Also, the game playing arrangement comprises a mechanical, symbol carrying arrangement. The symbol carrying arrangement comprises a set of rotatable mechanical reels with a plurality of symbols being arranged on an outer periphery of each reel. Also, the display element comprises a display screen overlying the game playing arrangement with the display screen being a multi-layered structure. Further, the structure includes a monitor on which images are to be displayed and the monitor overlies a shutter mechanism. The shutter mechanism is an electronically controlled device that is controllable to vary between a transparent state, in which the game playing arrangement is visible through the device, and an at least partially opaque state, in which the game playing arrangement is at least partially occluded. A monitor housing defines a plurality of openings with one opening being associated with each reel. A part of the outer periphery of each reel is visible through its associated opening. The electronically controlled device defines a plurality of zones with each zone, in use, overlying one of the reels. Each zone is controllable to vary between the transparent state, in which the associated reel is visible through that zone, and an at least partially opaque state, in which the reel is at least partially occluded.

Claim 1, as amended, is directed to a gaming machine that includes a game result display device for performing a predetermined display relating to a game result, a game value providing device for providing a game value advantageous to a player

when a predetermined game result is displayed on the game result display device and a display control device for executing display control of the game result display device. Claim 1 recites that the game result display device includes a first display device in a form of at least one reel operative to rotate about an axis of rotation, a second display device disposed in front of the first display device when the gaming machine is viewed from a front side thereof with the second display device being in a form of a liquid crystal display panel and a third display device disposed in front of the first display device when the gaming machine is viewed from the front side with the third display device being in a form of another liquid crystal display panel, with the second and third display device being facially opposed to one another and with the third display device being disposed between the first and second display device.

Claim 1 recites that the second display device includes at least one transparent display area operative between a transparent condition for transparently displaying the display of the first display device through the second display device and a non-transparent condition and the third display device includes at least one display shielding area for selectively shielding the display of the first display device with the at least one display shielding area corresponding to the at least one transparent display area. Furthermore, claim 1 recites that the at least one display shielding area of the third display device is controllably switched to either a view-inhibition state in which the display of the first display device is shielded to prevent or inhibit viewing of the first display device through the second display device regardless if the at least one transparent area of the second display device is in the transparent condition or the non-transparent condition or a viewing state in which the display of the first display device is transparently displayed for viewing through the second display device via the third display device when the at least one transparent display area of the second display device is in the transparent condition. Claim 1 also recites that the second display device in a form of a liquid crystal display panel and the third display device in a form of a liquid crystal display panel are a one-piece, unitary construction, the second display device and the third display device are in facial

contact with each other and the at least one display shielding area being a display shielding unit is embedded into the third display device.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection is improper because the applied art fails to teach each and every element of claim 1 as amended. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art fails to teach that the second display device in a form of a liquid crystal display panel and the third display device in a form of a liquid crystal display panel are a one-piece, unitary construction, the second display device and the third display device are in facial contact with each other and the at least one display shielding area being a display shielding unit is embedded into the third display device. By contrast, the applied art teaches a shutter mechanism 76 (equivalent to the claimed third display device) and a liquid crystal display monitor 68 separated by a transparent panel 84 as shown in Figure 8. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable over the applied art.

Claims 3 and 5 depend from claim 1 and include all of the features of claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 1 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Claim 4 is canceled and, as a result, the rejection as applied thereto is now moot.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Newly-added claims 6 and 7 also include features not shown in the applied art.

Further, Applicant asserts that there are also reasons other than those set forth above why the pending claims are patentable. Applicant hereby reserves the right to submit those other reasons and to argue for the patentability of claims not explicitly addressed herein in future papers.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for

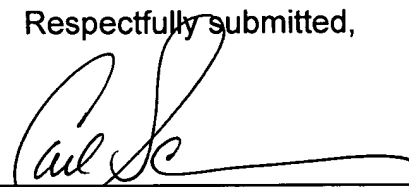
allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 29, 2008

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Enclosure(s): Amendment Transmittal

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